

GRAVEL PITS STIR RESIDENTS' IRE!

Vote on Water Bonds to be Held January 8

Protests Flooding Reluctant Council

INTEREST IN ELECTION ON ISSUE LACKS

Sufficient names having been signed to petitions, the City Council next Tuesday night will set Tuesday, January 8, 1952, as the date of the election to vote upon the \$2,000,000 water bond issue and upon consolidation of the several municipal water districts in the city.

The Press was informed following the meeting of the City Council as the Water Board Wednesday night, that a total of 743 signatures had been affixed to the water election petitions. This is 23 signatures more than the required 720, or 10 per cent of the registered vote.

Lack of interest in the proposed bond issue was indicated by the reluctance of the voters of Torrance to sign the petitions. With substantial cooperation by several organized groups and paid workers, it required nearly four weeks to obtain the necessary signatures to call the election.

However, when the voters were asked to indicate their opposition to the installation of parking meters, a small committee obtained nearly 1400 signatures in protest in less than five days.

The water expansion program is necessary to the future growth of Torrance, according to city officials, and the only way this expansion program can be financed is by the bond election.

Two propositions will be placed on the ballot: The consolidation of Municipal Improvement District No. 1 with Municipal Water District No. 1 and Municipal District No. 2 (with each district continuing to stand good for its individual bonds), and the voting of the water bonds of \$2,000,000 which will be levied against all districts.

Being revenue bonds, water rates will be raised to retire them, it was said.

Recalled



JOHN SCHWARTZ, owner of Schwartz Men's Store, Lomita, received orders last week to return to active duty. A lifetime resident of Torrance, Schwartz is a graduate of Torrance high school. He will return to service as a Lt. Jr. grade.

Harbor Freeway Bids To Be Opened Today

Bids will be opened in Los Angeles today on three downtown bridges which will separate the Harbor Freeway from 7th, 8th and 9th Sts. One structure will carry 7th St. over the freeway. The other two will take the freeway over 8th and 9th Sts.

State highway engineers hope Federal restrictions on steel will not prevent rushing of construction on these vital projects in the Los Angeles freeway network.

Bids are expected to be well in excess of \$1,000,000. Actually, six bridges are involved—the three major structures and three smaller ramp separations at 8th and 9th Sts. Thirteen hundred tons of steel will be needed.

NEED STRESSED Paul O. Harding, assistant State highway engineer said that these bridges must be built before the adjacent Harbor Freeway grading and paving is begun or downtown traffic will be disrupted completely.

This freeway will run west of Figueroa St. It will pass through a chain of underpasses and overpasses from the four-level structure near Sunset Blvd., as it goes south to Olympic Blvd.

Bridges will carry the freeway over Temple, 1st and 2nd Sts., under 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Sts., Wilshire Blvd. and 7th St. and over 8th and 9th Sts. and Olympic Blvd.

The 7th, 8th and 9th St. bridges will be used immediately upon completion in March, 1953, to handle traffic to and



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Building Permits Near \$12,000,000 in Year



ALTHOUGH LAST WEEK ENDED the two weeks dedicated to the prevention of accidents, Torrance Junior Chamber members, sponsors of the campaign announced that the intensive drive to educate the driving public will continue. Joe Mongini, chairman of the two campaigns, said that every member of the organization will continue to lend a helping hand toward making the Town of Torrance free from accidents. Pictured above are Jay- and members engaged in informing residents to "Take it easy and Live". —Pressphoto.

PERMITS TOTAL ABOVE 12 MILLIONS

Building permit total for the first nine months of 1951 zoomed to a high of 11,688,426 over a grand total of 9,407,776 for 1950, and a total of \$4,659,395 for the same period in 1949.

Records show during September of this year the total reached \$1,177,906. There were 21 single family dwelling permits issued amounting to \$213,600. Multiple family dwellings, \$24,000; commercial buildings, totaling \$11,000; General Permit expansion, \$400,000; other buildings, such as schools, \$1,000; new buildings, \$1,000; additions to existing buildings, \$18,530; other buildings, \$1,000.

September 1951 total reached \$905,505, while September 1949 total was \$1,016,000. The large figure for September 1949 included a \$275,800 school building permit.

Elm Ave. Residents Lose Plea

Properly owners in the 1400 and 1500 block on Elm avenue will not be permitted to install sidewalks and curbs at their own expense because they refuse to provide also at their own cost a storm drain to carry away water from surrounding streets which gathers on Elm avenue in stormy weather.

The residents told the City Council that they felt that the City of Torrance should stand the cost of eliminating the standing storm waters which drains into the area.

Councilman Nick Deale told the Council that "these few residents should not be required to install a storm drain that, in reality, would be handling flood waters from other streets." He suggested that either the City stand the cost of the drainage system, or that all property owners in the area which contributes to the standing water should share the cost.

The Council did not agree. (Continued on Page Seven)

LAKE, FLOOD WATER TUNNEL ASKED HERE

Construction of an 8000-foot tunnel under portions of Seaside Ranchos and Hollywood Riviera to the ocean has been proposed by City Engineer Jacob Joseph as a means of draining the Waverly sump, the area west of Hawthorne boulevard and north of Pacific Coast highway which is inundated during heavy storms.

Joseph proposed the plan as a part of the general flood control program which the County of Los Angeles is considering for presentation to the voters for financing, by bond issue.

While the cost would be in excess of \$1,000,000 coming out of the bond funds, the City of Torrance would have to finance the acquiring of rights-of-way for the project.

PARK PLAN

As a part of the plan, a detention reservoir or lake would be built on the Waverly sump area which would gather storm waters from surrounding areas. The area would be utilized as a recreation park. The tunnel would carry surplus water from the lake to the ocean.

An eight-foot tunnel would be required, and a five-foot pipe would handle the water running throughout the tunnel, under Joseph's plan.

The City Engineer also submitted a plan for construction of a central Torrance storm drain, running from the Navy supply depot at Plaza del Amo and Arlington avenue to connect with the present drain at Western avenue and Torrance boulevard. The cost of this would be about \$500,000, he estimated. The drain would carry flood waters throughout central Torrance, including the five-points area, 220th street and wet sections which flood in wet weather.

He said a six-foot pipe approximately 7500 feet long would be needed.

This plan, also should be submitted to the Board of Supervisors, he said.

Police Show Planned for November 10

Torrance Police Department hummed with activity this week, as preparations began for the 14th Annual Police Benefit Show, which is sponsored each year by the Torrance Police Officers Association.

A Bigger and Better show is the aim of the department this year, according to Sgt. Freiberg, chairman of the event.

As in past years, the show will feature ten acts, which will include dance routines, songs, and enjoyment for the entire family.

Show will be held in the High School Auditorium November 10, with two shows planned for the evening; one at 7 p.m. and another at 9 p.m.

Peninsula Crossing Now Open

First public crossing over the Rolling Hills area was opened when County Supervisor Raymond V. Darby snipped a yellow and green band in official ceremony this week.

Almost eight miles of paved roadway leading from the Rolling Hills area to the Point Vincenta District will now be open to public crossing.

The 24-foot-wide right-of-way, much of it constructed recently and all macadam surfaced, extends from Palos Verdes Dr. north to Palos Verdes Dr. south. Meanwhile, crews of prisoners are continuing work which will complete a trans-peninsula link in a project to make Crenshaw Blvd. a through highway from downtown Los Angeles to the sea by 1953.

More than 3½ miles of the roadway opened today was constructed by the gangs and were originally used as access roads to the detention camp. The remainder of the stretch is private roadway dedicated to public use by the Palos Verdes Corporation.

Frank A. Vanderlip, president of the Palos Verdes Corporation, was host to county officials and newspaper publishers at a luncheon at the Portuguese Bend Club preceding the ceremonies.

Tragedy Ends Search for Missing Man

A five-day search for a Torrance man ended in tragedy as John Tufts, 51, 2152 W. 235th st., was found slumped in the seat of a pickup truck in Elinore, Calif., last Friday by police. Tufts had allegedly committed suicide by use of carbon monoxide gas, according to Chief John Stroh, of the Torrance Police Department.

Police discovered the body in the car with a hose connected from an exhaust pipe to the interior of the car. A note was found, telling police to notify Tufts' widow of his death.

Mrs. Tufts had reported her husband missing to the Torrance Police Department on Sept. 25. She said that he had been missing for three days at that time.

RECEIVES LETTER She later notified police that she had received a letter from her husband on the 26th, in which was stated his suicide intent. The letter was dated Sept. 24 from Elinore, Calif.

He wrote to his wife, "I'm so sorry I failed you—I'm so very tired of living—ready to take the long, long road." He also wrote that his body would be found off the road between Elinore and Chino.

Newspaper Week Hailed By Press

This week is Newspaper Week, and the Press is honored and proud to participate in its observance.

Never before has there been such need for a free press, and we of the Press are happy to have been able to bring to the people of Torrance the "other side" of topics of the day they have wanted for so long.

Senator Richard Nixon, in congratulating the Press throughout the nation, declared:

"I am taking this occasion to express to the Editors of California my congratulations of the part they have played in the establishment of the high journalistic standards characterizing the newspapers of our State.

"Although we are comparatively young as a State, it is my observation that our California newspapers have attained a stature that is comparable with the finest in the country. Nowhere in the land is the principle of a strong, free, and independent press better exemplified than in California.

SCANLON KILLED IN ACTION

Lt. Col. Robert E. Scanlon of 105 Ardath avenue, has been declared killed in action as the result of a flight over Red territory in Korea, the Air Force announced recently.

Col. Scanlon's F-51 Mustang fighter plane crashed on Sept. 21 of last year and he was listed as missing in action at that time. His body has been recovered and buried in Korea, it was indicated.

He is survived by the widow, Elizabeth; daughter, Mary, 1½; sons, Patrick, 5 and Donald, 4, all of the local address.

Lomita Man Is Korea Casualty

Corp. Jack McKinney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack McKinney, of 25903 Eshelman avenue, Lomita, has been wounded in action in Korea.

Loranger To Head Kiwanians

Paul Loranger of Paul's Chevrolet Agency will be the 1951-52 president for the Torrance Kiwanians, with Charles Ragsdale carrying the ball as vice-president.

Election was held Monday at the regular meeting of the Torrance Kiwanis Club at the Am-



erican Legion Hall. Installation ceremonies will be held in January, according to Parke Montague, president.

Other officers elected were: Charles Wallack, second vice president; directors, Edwin Brown, Don Hitchcock, Les King, Harry Moritz, and Darwin Parrish. Held over as directors from last year are Dr. Gerald Eastham, Veme Gill, Dr. Alden Smith and Byron Scotton. Automatic member of the board will be Parks Montague, who will take the past president's seat.

Murder Suspect Captured

Torrance policemen received high praise this week for the capture of Bill Roger Stewart, 20 year old ex-marine corporal, wanted for investigation of murder in the fatal stabbing of a 44 year old housewife of Hermosa Beach.

Stewart was arrested a short time after the murder by Policemen Gall Whitacre and Donald Nash, at the end of a chase, when the stolen car he was driving went out of control and crashed at Denker Ave. and East Road.

Hermosa detectives returned the suspect to the beach city where they said he admitted stabbing Mrs. Evelyn Lake but could give no coherent reason for the act.

BIDS FOR NEW BUS STUDIED

Purchase of one small bus to augment the equipment of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines will be authorized at the next City Council meeting, it is reported.

City Manager George Stevens is studying bids for the bus, one from Paul's Chevrolet being \$3701.59, and another from Paul's being \$3281.27, plus certain equipment in both instances. A bid from Schultz & Peckham, for a Ford bus, was \$4185.22.

Other equipment bids being considered by the City Manager are: TRUCK—Paul's Chevrolet, \$2,537.08; Schultz & Peckham, \$2,404.61, plus optional equipment; International Harvester, \$2,225.01.

Compressor and Spray Unit, Essick Manufacturing Co., \$1,471.47.

Heavy Duty Trailer, Callahan Engineering Company, \$3,951.60; Schultz & Peckham, \$3,956.00.

10,000 Gallon Tank, Coast Equipment Exchange, \$1,836.00 new; Shields, Harper & Co., \$1,680.79.

On Eshelman Ave. Sewers

Time for receiving bids on the contract to install sewers in Eshelman Avenue and other streets near Lomita, was set for October 23, at the hour of 10 a.m., by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

Supervisor Raymond V. Darby announced that no protests had been received at the public hearing held in the Supervisors meeting room.

The area to be improved extends from 223rd street south to the end of Eshelman avenue.



Bring the Kiddies to see the ELEPHANT! FRI--SAT--SUN ONLY

EMMA—The famous elephant star of stage and screen will be the main feature attraction at the opening of Torrance's newest Self Service Gasoline Station. Emma, who is well known for her parts in the Tarzan series, and many other jungle pictures will do 3 to 4 shows daily for the kiddies on Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the corner of Carson and Western. Emma is 37 years old, approximately 8 ft. 6" high, and weighs 9,000 pounds. Her trainer is Lawrence White. Waggoner's Self-Service station is located at the corner of Carson & Western Ave.